

**MINUTES OF THE
NATURAL RESOURCES APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
January 31, 2001
Room 305, State Capitol**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sen. Parley Hellewell, Co-Chair
Rep. Michael R. Styler, Co-Chair
Sen. Ron Allen
Sen. Bill Wright
Rep. Craig W. Buttars
Rep. Carl W. Duckworth
Rep. Ben C. Ferry
Rep. Fred J. Fife III
Rep. James R. Gowans
Rep. Bradley T. Johnson
Rep. Brent D. Parker
Rep. Darin G. Peterson

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Sen. Wright, Rep. Styler

STAFF PRESENT: Steven Allred, Fiscal Analyst
Vanean Bitton, Committee Secretary

VISITORS: Attached to and made a part of these minutes

Sen. Hellewell called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m.

MOTION: Rep. Ferry moved to approve the minutes of the January 24 and January 29, 2001 meetings. The motion passed unanimously.

H.B. 111 Appropriation for Water Quality Protection (*B. Parker*)

Rep. Parker requested an ongoing appropriation of \$75,000 from the General Fund for fiscal year 2001-2002 to Utah State University Extension for a program to assist agricultural producers in identifying and implementing management practices that prevent contamination of water by animal wastes. Dr. John Harrison, Utah State University Extension specialist on waste management, answered questions from the committee.

MOTION: Rep. Gowans moved to pass the bill out favorably. The motion passed unanimously. The members present agreed to place the bill on a priority list.

Nicole Diamantes of the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget informed the committee that there will be a meeting regarding the Governor's Blue Ribbon Fisheries proposal on Tuesday, February 6, 2001 from 4:00 to 4:30 p.m. in the Governor's Board Room.

Mr. Art DuFault, Director of the **Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands**, presented an overview of the division and addressed the subcommittee concerning division issues. Discussion turned in particular to the Wildland Fire Suppression Fund, and the issues facing both the State and the counties who participate or wish to participate in the Fund.

Mr. Allred presented the budget for the Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands. He noted that the division's two principal funding sources are the General Fund and the General Fund Restricted - Sovereign Lands Management Account. By statute, funds in the Sovereign Lands Management Account are nonlapsing. Mr. Allred discussed the following issues:

2.1: Bear River Bird Refuge Dispute: Mr. Allred recommends ongoing funding of \$20,000 per year from restricted funds for implementation of plans to resolve the dispute over ownership of sovereign lands.

2.2: Additional FTEs Hired: The division director has hired two additional FTEs: a forestry technician and a forester. Another FTE may soon be hired to track costs of fire suppression. At the recommendation of Mr. Allred, the division director reported on what budget adjustments were made to accommodate the hiring.

Mr. Allred recommended a total budget for the Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands of \$8,374,900, with \$2,935,700 from General Funds. The programs within this division include:

Director's Office	\$228,700
Administrative Services	347,600
Fire Suppression	1,722,900
Planning and Technology	204,100
Technical Assistance	701,900
Program Delivery	1,105,100
Lone Peak Center	1,904,300
Program Delivery Cooperators	2,160,300

Discussion regarding the Lone Peak Conservation Center pointed out that the Center employs and trains over one hundred inmates from the Utah State Prison for nursery operations, conservation work projects, and fire fighting. Funds used for fire fighting and forest management are nonlapsing. The Department of Corrections has ceased subsidizing the program. This has added a burden of approximately \$400,000 annually on the Lone Peak Center.

MOTION: Rep. Ferry moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously, with Sen. Allen absent for the vote.

Sen. Hellewell adjourned the meeting at 3:46 p.m.

Rep. Michael R. Styler, Co-Chairman

Sen. Parley Hellewell, Co-Chairman